

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 6-12, with the following amended paragraph:

Applicant interprets the above observations to show that MCV produces a protein that inhibits the signs and symptoms of AD. This protein is believed to be MC148P1. Published work indicates that MC148P2 and other MC148 proteins to share the same or similar anti-inflammatory properties. (~~Krathwohlmi~~ Krathwohl et al. in Proc Nat'l Acad Sci 94: 9875-9880; ~~Buger J. Jeral~~ Buget, J. J. et al. in Virology 242: 51-59, 1998; ~~Damoni~~ Damon, I. et al. in Proc Nat'l Acad Sci 95:6403-6407, 1998.)

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 27-30, with the following amended paragraph:

The DNA sequence of MCV148 type 1 (~~SEQ. ID. No. 1~~ SEQ ID NO:1) is illustrated in Figure 1A and the amino acid sequence of MC148P1 (denoted as MC 148P by Damon et al and as MC 148R1 Protein by Krathwohl et al) (~~SEQ. ID. No. 2~~ SEQ ID NO:2) is provided in Figure 1B.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 1-6, with the following amended paragraph:

MC 148P2 (also denoted MC148R 2 Protein), produced by MCV type 2, is a variant of MC148P1. MC148P2 is also 104 amino acids in length. The DNA sequence for MCV type 2 (~~SEQ. ID. No. 3~~ SEQ ID NO:3) is illustrated in Figure 2A and the amino acid sequence of MC148P2 (~~SEQ. ID. No. 4~~ SEQ ID NO:4) is illustrated in Figure 2B. The DNA sequence for MC148R2 has been deposited in Gen Bank (Accession number U96749) by Krathwohl et al, as referenced above.

Please replace the paragraph at page 24 (Abstract), with the following amended paragraph:

Compositions are provided for treating atopic dermatitis, other atopic diseases and other inflammatory or allergic skin disorders. The compositions include proteins from Molluscum Contagiosum Virus (MCV), or fragments, variants, analogs, and derivatives thereof which exhibit AD inhibiting activity. Examples of MCV proteins which exhibit AD inhibiting activity include MC148P1, MC148P2, MC148P3, other MC148P type proteins, and fragments, variants,

Application No. 09/920,897
Amendment dated March 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 17, 2003

analogs, and derivatives of MC148P1, MC148P2, MC148P3, and other MC148P type ~~proteings~~
proteins which possess AD inhibiting activity. The fragments, variants, analogs and derivatives
may be less than 100% homologous to MCV proteins so long as they are sufficiently
homologous such that AD inhibiting activity is preserved.